REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 4-16 to correct improper multiple dependences or typographical errors. Claims 1-16 remain pending.

In the last Office Action, the Examiner required submission of a substitute declaration or oath with inventors' signatures under 37 C.F.R. § 1.67(a), and objected to claims 7-16 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for containing improper multiple claim dependencies.

OATH/DECLARATION

In a telephone conference with the Examiner on approximately May 5, 2005, Applicants' representative pointed out to the Examiner that an executed declaration with inventors' signatures was submitted on June 28, 2001. The Examiner stated that she had mistakenly overlooked the executed declaration during her review of the present application. Accordingly, Applicants are not required to submit a substitute declaration or oath.

OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 7-16

Applicants have amended claims 7-16 to remove any improper multiple claim dependency. Applicants request that the objection to claims 7-16 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for containing improper multiple claim dependencies be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.
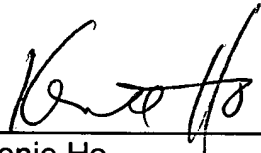
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Applicants note that the Office Action contains numerous statements reflecting apparent assertions concerning the related art and claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is addressed specifically herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any assertion and/or characterization set forth in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 27, 2005   By: _____
                                            Kenie Ho
                                            Reg. No. 51,808

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